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Message Text

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20
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01 SY-05

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 /055 W
---------- 033352
R 082359Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN TO RAISE USG CONCERN REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY WITH GOM GIVEN THE FACTS THAT THE GOM DEPOSITED INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATIONS TO THE 1970 HAGUE AND 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTIONS WITH THE RESPECTIVE DEPOSITARIES ON JULY 19, 1972 AND SEPT. 12, 1974, RESPECTIVELY, AND THAT FAA AND THE MEXICAN AEROPUERTOS Y SERVICIOS AUXILIARES, (ASA), TOGETHER WITH THE AIRLINES, HAVE BEEN AND ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY PROCEDURES AT MEXICAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS.

2. IN MEXICO, AIRPORT SECURITY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AEROPUERTOS Y SERVICIOS AUXILIARES (ASA). SINCE 1972 THIS AGENCY HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY DIVISION, FAA, SOUTHWEST REGION, FORT WORTH, TEXAS TO IMPROVED SECURITY AT MEXICAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH FLIGHT TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES. INITIALLY, THE FAA SECURITY SCREENING REQUIREMENTS
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WERE APPLIABLE TO U.S. AIR CARRIERS ONLY. SINCE THE

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PROMULGATION OF SECTION 129 OF THE FAA REGULATIONS
ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, FOREIGN LINES SERVING THE
U.S., INCLUDING THE TWO MEXICAN FLAG CARRIERS, HAVE
BEEN REQUIRED TO ADOPT THE SAME SCREENING PROCEDURES.
ASA, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FAA, HAS ALSO PUT TOGETHER
A TRAINING PROGRAM ON THE SCREENING OF PASSENGERS FOR
AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL. THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN
OPERATION FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS.

3. THE MOST RECENT VISIT TO MEXICO BY THE FAA SECURITY
INSPECTOR, C. TAYLOR HART, WAS AUGUST 1-3,1976. HART
CONFERRED WITH SECURITY DIRECTORS FROM A NUMBER OF
U.S. CARRIERS AT ACAPULCO AND MEXICO CITY AND WITH ASA
OFFICIALS. INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES WERE HELD WITH
AEROMEXICO AND MEXICANA OFFICIALS CONCERNING THEIR
SECURITY PROBLEMS. SECURITY DEFICIENCIES WERE OBSERVED
AT ACAPULCO AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE CORRECTED WITHIN
60 DAYS. AT THE MEXICO CITY AIRPORT THERE IS AT PRESENT
NO HOLDING AREA FOR TRANSIT PASSENGERS. THIS HAS LEAD TO
OVERSIGHTS IN THE SCREENING OF PASSENGERS AND THE
INTERMINGLING OF SCREENED AND UNSCREENED PASSENGERS.
THE FAA SECURITY INSPECTOR HAS RAISED WITH ASA OFFICIALS
THE DESIRABILITY OF CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT
AREA AT THE AIRPORT. THIS IDEA IS UNDER CONSIDERATION,
BUT THE AIRPORT LAYOUT, TOGETHER WITH THE VARYING
DEMANDS ON THE EXISTING GATES, MAY PRECLUDE ITS ESTA-
BLISHMENT.

4. AS RESULT OF THE VISIT OF THE FAA SECURITY
INSPECTOR, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ADDITIONAL METAL
DETECTORS ARE NEEDED AT MEXICO CITY AND ACAPULCO.
EIGHT DETECTORS, SEVEN FOR MEXICO CITY AND ONE FOR
ACAPULCO ARE READY FOR DELIVERY. HOWEVER, PROBLEMS
REGARDING THEIR DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION INTO MEXICO HAVE
ARISEN. THE EMBASSY, WORKING IN CONCERT WITH ASA,
IS ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER WITH MEXICAN
CUSTOMS.

5. AT OTHER MEXICAN AIRPORT WITH AIR SERVICE TO AND
FROM THE U.S., PASSENGER SCREENING IS PERFORMED WITH
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THE USE OF HAND WANDS AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, WALK-
THROUGH DETECTORS GIVEN TO U.S. AIRLINES ARE AVAILABLE
FOR THE USE OF ALL CARRIERS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL LOCAL
U.S. AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVES IN MEXICO CITY REPORT
THAT SCREENING PROCEDURES , PARTICULARLY THOSE OF
AEROMEXICO AND MEXICANA, AT THESE AIRPORTS ARE AT TIMES DIFFICIENT.
THIS, NO DOUBT, CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO THE FACT
THE GOM DOES NOT REQUIRE PASSGNER SCREENING FOR

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DOMESTIC FLIGHTS. NEVERTHELSS, SINCE FAA SECURITY INSPECTORS MAKE PERIODIC VISITS TO THESE AIRPORTS (TIJUANA WILL BE VISITED SHORTLY), IT IS EXPECTED THAT ANY IMPROPER PROCEDURES OBSERVED WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AIRLINE IN QUESTION FOR CORRECTION.

6. EMBASSY ALSO HAS JUST RECEIVED COMMUNICATION FROM FAA SOUTHWEST REGION REQUESTING POSTS ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOM IN CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY MATTERS. FAA PROPOSAL CALLS FOR, INTER ALIA, EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION RE CRIMINAL/TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION. MORE DETAILED REPORT THEREON WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.
THOMPSON

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